

No. R-273. House concurrent resolution remembering, with great sadness, the historic and interconnected 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disasters that struck the Tōhoku region of Japan.

(H.C.R.226)

Offered by Representatives Cooper of Pownal, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, and Priestley of Bradford

Whereas, on March 11, 2011, at an underground location off the northeast coast of the Oshika Peninsula in Japan, there occurred a 9.0 magnitude earthquake, which the Japanese government has designated the “Great East Japan Earthquake,” and

Whereas, this earthquake, the largest ever recorded in Japan, and the fourth-largest documented earthquake on the planet since this type of data was first collected in 1900, lasted six minutes and precipitated a tsunami that inundated over 200 square miles of coastal Japanese land and triggered waves that, at their maximum height, rose over 100 feet high, the equivalent of a 12-story building, and

Whereas, the official casualty count from these combined disasters numbered 6,242 injuries, including 284 firefighters; 2,553 missing persons; and, tragically, 19,759 deaths, and

Whereas, these two cataclysmic events triggered an equally horrific disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, causing three nuclear reactor meltdowns and the discharge of radioactive water, which forced the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of area residents, many for an extended period of time, and

Whereas, the financial cost of these interconnected catastrophes is estimated to have exceeded \$300 billion, possibly the costliest natural disaster in modern history, and

Whereas, on March 11, 2026, the people of Japan and the world are pausing to remember these tragic events and their impact on Japan, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly remembers, with great sadness, the historic and interconnected 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disasters that struck the Tōhoku region of Japan, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Consul General of Japan Seiichiro Takahashi in Boston and to Dr. Masatoshi Kida and Mrs. Reiko Kida in recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Kida’s two-plus decades of endeavoring to enhance the friendship, cultural understanding, and warm relationship between the peoples of Japan and Vermont.